

Message Text

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H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REFS: A) GENEVA 3096; B) GENEVA 5020

1. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO MISSION FOR EXCELLENT WORK IN DEALING WITH MATTER OF PRG INVITATION TO ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS. WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN OF FAVORABLE VOTE COUNT REPORTED REF B. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT, ACCORDING TO MISSION'S UNDERSTANDING, ICRC APPARENTLY CONSIDERS MATTER CLOSED. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT UNDERSTANDING THAT MATTER IS CLOSED AND ISSUE DISPOSED OF AND THEREFORE WE REQUEST YOU TO MAKE FURTHER APPROACH AS OUTLINED BELOW. TENOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH SHOULD BE THAT BOTH ICRC AND USG HAPPY THAT

TROUBLESOME ISSUE DISPOSED OF IN MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER.

2. BASED ON REPORT CONTAINED REF B THAT MAJORITY OF RESPONSES OPPOSE INVITATION OF PRG TO WEAPONS CONFERENCE, YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ICRC NOTE OF MAY 17 (REF A) INCLUDED FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QTE...THE ICRC REQUESTS GOVERNMENTS TO LET IT KNOW IN WRITING, BEFORE 31 JULY 1974, IF THEY ARE IN FAVOUR OR NOT OF THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS NOMINATED

BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM OR BY OTHER BODIES WHICH HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. THE ICRC WILL STAND BY THE WISHES EXPRESSED BY A MAJORITY OF THE REPLIES SENT TO IT. UNQTE. THUS, TALLY BASED ON RESPONSES RECEIVED REPEAT RECEIVED AS OF JULY 31 MAY BE REGARDED AS FINAL AND CONCLUSIVE. THE ICRC HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO ACCEPTING THE MAJORITY AS OF THIS DATE.

B. JULY 31 HAS NOW PASSED AND IT IS CLEAR THAT MAJORITY OF RESPONSES OPPOSE INVITATION OF PRG TO WEAPONS CONFERENCE.

C. REGARDING PARA 4 OF REF B, WE UNDERSTAND THAT DECISION ON PROCEDURE SET FORTH IN ICRC MAY 17 NOTE WAS TAKEN BY FULL ICRC ASSEMBLY (GENEVA 3078 AND 3537). ALL THAT REMAINS IS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF ANNOUNCING RESULTS. A STAFF PRESS RELEASE WOULD BE APPRECIATED AND YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THIS. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS WOULD PREVENT ICRC FROM BEING SUBJECTED TO PRESSURES TO ACCEPT LATE RESPONSES. WE UNDERSTAND ICRC ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO MEET THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, AND WE ASSUME ASSEMBLY WILL ONLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT REPLIES RECEIVED BY JULY 31. WE ASSUME THAT ASSEMBLY WILL ARRANGE FOR NOTE TO BE SENT TO GOVERNMENTS FROM ICRC OFFICIALLY INFORMING THEM OF FINAL RESULTS.

3. IN THIS APPROACH YOU MAY REMIND ICRC THAT USG WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DISTRESSED BY ICRC'S DECISION TO RAISE PRG ISSUE IN MAY 17 NOTE. USG IS MOST ANXIOUS TO PUT THIS ISSUE BEHIND US SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH SUBSTANTIVE WORK ON CONFERENCE. PROMPT OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT PRG ISSUE HAS BEEN SETTLED WILL REASSURE WASHINGTON THAT ICRC HAS ACCEPTED RESULTS ON TERMS ANNOUNCED AND HAS PUT ISSUE TO REST. IT WILL ALSO REASSURE WASHINGTON AS TO ICRC'S NEUTRALITY ON THIS ISSUE.

4. YOU SHOULD NOTE IN CONCLUSION THAT ICRC'S OFFICIAL
STATEMENT THAT PRG WILL NOT BE INVITED TO WEAPONS
CONFERENCE WILL REMOVE ALL DOUBT ABOUT USG PARTICIPATION
IN WEAPONS CONFERENCE (SEE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF STATE
112467, WHICH MISSION TRANSMITTED TO ICRC JUNE 4). KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, CONSULTANTS, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE168714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJBETTAUER:MERS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740211-0300
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740878/aaaacopi.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) GENEVA 3096; B) GENEVA 5020
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, VS, VN, ICRC
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005